

WRESTLING FORUM

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VOLUME II

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SEASON'S GREETINGS!

I was all set to launch into one of my editorial fits here concerning a letter I printed last issue. But somehow, sitting here after work, listening to Christmas music and checking on my little girl every once in a while has changed my attitude. Your letters of support have helped too. I realize for every negative letter we get, there's about ten others that feel the same way so I don't take stuff like that lightly. But your response in saying "don't change a thing" has been overwhelming and I appreciate that. I will continue to talk about my family in this bulletin (I give credit to people who contribute to the bulletin and no offense intended here, but my wife Mary and three year old Kelly do more for this bulletin than anyone else including that letter writer and they will continue to share the spotlight). I've always said that I will continue to do this bulletin until it becomes not fun anymore, and if I had to do a straight bulletin with no humor, no personal anecdotes, no puns etc. it wouldn't be fun and refunds would be in the mail the next day. As it is, talking with all of you on the phone and corresponding through the mail takes just second place to time spent with my family and I intend to be doing this for a long time to come.

Anyway, welcome back to all our old timers and a hearty hello to all first time readers. This is our special Christmas issue and it's four pages longer than usual due to our Christmas surprise found in the centerfold. Actually, this is a bonus gift left over from my days of being a funeral director for bugs and guarantees complete eradication of any unwanted pests from your home if hung in the right place.

We publish on the 15th and 30th of each month with mailing taking place on the following day. The cost is just \$1.25 per issue and we accept subscriptions in any amount UP TO six months worth (\$15.00 total). All correspondence should be sent to the Knoxville address which appears on the return address portion of the mailing sheet unless otherwise noted.

Our first page here is usually devoted to the welcoming garbage but there is something very important that I want to say here. You will not be receiving another issue until after the first of the year so that means that there will be a lot of Christmas and New Years Parties going on. By all means, P-L-E-A-S-E....DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!!! The two together are a deadly combination and we sure want each and every one of you back for the next issue. And also remember...FRIENDS DON'T LET FRIENDS DRIVE DRUNK!!! If you're at a party and a friend is going to try and drive and you know he can't safely, belt him, suplex him, put him in a figure four, but don't let him get behind the wheel. There are lots of families out there that could be a potential victim if you let him go. So please...Have fun this holiday season... but be careful...know your limits and use your common sense. We all claim to be smart fans...let's prove it.

Back to wrestling, we welcome to this issue GREG ANDERSON who will be doing our new Pacific Northwest report. Greg was MAT RESULTS! NW correspondent for a long time and we welcome his reports here as well. This will be a regular feature from now on.

Also we'd like to introduce our Stampede report and since I have just finished making arrangements for it, I hope that it will appear as well. The mail from Canada may hold it up. Trent Walters will be supplying the information from Calgary and we welcome his reports as well.

That's it for this page. Onto some more solid stuff. For those of you skipping over my silly diatribes, you can come back now...

THE BOTTOM LINE BY RAY WHEBBE JR

INDEPENDENTS OFFER HOPE

Independents come and independents go but the more the WWF, AWA, and even NWA butcher things up, the more optimism I have for the independent. Granted, some may fold, but some won't. In their heydays, Southwest, Continental and Central States offered fun alternatives. They may even again in the future. It has often been rumored that Joe Blanchard will make a comeback and through his WWA, Bob Geigel will give it a shot.

The independent is needed for numerous reasons. After all, who else goes to and cares about America's heartland? If good wrestling is to survive, the independents may be more important than many think.

Yes, the independent too can kill a territory. The Bruiser's group has been awful at times...as have hundreds of others. A few worth of watching are the NWF, WOW, PWA, TWW, NASA, the ICW and a few more.

The NWF (National Wrestling Federation) is currently having upper management problems. Executive Rob Russen has left and booker Damien Kane will head up their new office. Russen will book stars like Stan Hansen, Bruiser Brody, the Fantastics, Tom Zenk, and Sergeant Slaughter. They will also use local talent when invading territories. Russen will fight over the right to NWF tapes and begin his own group within days.

The NWF will plug away with Don Drake as its champion and booker with Mike Dans and other executives. They too will continue to book the entire country when offered guarantees. This method of promoting allows wrestlers not to worry about "funny money" and the local promoters or sponsors a "best buy" for your money deal. Larry Winters, Jules Strongbow and He-Man Lewis will surely stay on. Wendi Richter may work for both groups.

The NWF has toured Canada, Montana, California, and Florida. In all they've had over 30 "big dates" this year. Add these to Slaughter's \$5000 Hasbro and/or truck pull personal appearance fee and one wonders if in fact he really wants to go back to the WWF.

Pro Wrestling America (PWA) offers life to a battered Twin Cities. The Ed Sharkey led group's June "Wrestle for Shelter" drew 2112 people. Their stars have included Bruiser Brody, the Fantastics, Doug Sommers, Shotgun Gage, Savannah Jack, the Terminators, Nerd the Barbarian, Tom Zenk, Buck Zumhofe, Chris Markoff and Andy Big Bear. Tim Flowers, Art Crews, Mad Dog Vachone and others labored here in 1986. The Top Guns-Termie matches may have been the Twin Cities' best in 1987.

One of the best things about PWA is their newcomers. The Terminators are a solid tagteam capable of making a living somewhere. Derrick Dukes may be the country's best black worker. Johnny Love, Skip Luthor and Larry "the Butcher" Cameron have what it takes as well. Their TV is decent too.

World Organization Wrestling (WOW) is doing great. They began slow in early 1987 but have come on like gangbusters since. Bob Sweetan, Mr. Ito and Christopher Love handle the office. They run shows in Alabama and Florida and are based in Pensacola, Florida. In October-November they've ran shows almost nightly. Crowds began at about 400 and are up to 2000. Sika, Kokina, Samu, Ken Wayne, Jerry Stubbs, Bob Holly, Ricky Gibson, Rex Rogers, Norvell Austin, the Batten Twins, Wendi Richter and Adrian Street are a few of their noted stars. Terry Gordy, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond are scheduled in soon. No longer is WOW wrestling's best kept secret.

Trans-World Wrestling (TWW), the EWA and other East coast groups

keep things lively. Trans World is run by the Samoans and the EWA often stars Dave Schultz, WWF renegades Tony Garea, Lou Albano, Ron Shaw, Mario Mancini, Cousin Luke and Johnny Rodz as well as the zillion in the Samoan family. The groups are often interchangeable. Should've been a star Mike Kaluah is out there somewhere too.

The ICW is also alive on the East Coast. The Savoldi's can boast of a Bob Backlund-Iron Sheik feud that should still work and a host of newcomers.

NASA (North American Sports Association) is the Alabama group headed by Jay and Sadonna Wilson. They were quite successful this summer and hope to draw several thousand for their holiday charity drives.

Even Johnny Hunter's North Carolina group is showing life. They recently hosted a card that headlined Buzz Tyler vs Buddy Landell with Lou Thez as the referee. Ox Baker, Rufus Jones, ladies, midgets and a host of others appeared on the undercard.

In Tulsa, Chris Fox heads one group and John Archer another. Both hope to use the Fantastics, Jack Victory and John Tatum. Fox will also book wrestlers elsewhere. Archer may even start a school.

California independents are running rampant. Hopefully one or two will settle down, put together good shows and organize the area. Thus in this day when most "smart" fans see big time wrestling on the ropes, there's hope. It's just hidden.

EDITOR'S NOTES: Ray didn't mention a few others...some are not so good... there's the Grand Prix circuit up in Nova Scotia which runs seasonally along with Tomko's group up in Vancouver. Marcial Bovee runs an independent out in Arizona which has TV broadcast over a prison cable system and runs shows in the prisons themselves along with towns along the line. They have had some pretty good luck this past summer with drawing crowds. There's also the group that we carried a story on some time ago (the group called Global Wrestling Alliance and sold over the counter stock in the company) who have just signed Gordon Solie as their announcer. They are based in Florida. Independents in most cases work harder to put on a live show because in most cases, it's their only way of drawing people back for more. I'd like to start a page here in the Forum devoted to the smaller promotions; so if you have information on any, send them along. Also ANYONE INTERESTED IN TRADING TAPES OR INFORMATION ON INDEPENDENTS SHOULD CONTACT RAY WHEBBE AT 416 S. 10TH ST, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55404.

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

Mew! It was a false alarm. Last issue we had reported that Greg Gagne had taken the AWA title from Curt Hennig. Well, he did, sort of, but only in Minneapolis. Here's the story.

See, Gagne sometimes thinks he's running two promotions. One in the Twin Cities and another in the rest of the country. Sometimes he shoots an angle in Minneapolis that the rest of the country doesn't even get to see. That's what happened in this match and this situation. In Minneapolis, Greg did in fact get the title. However, the rest of the country wasn't even told of what happened in the match. The next weekly show in the Twin Cities saw Curt Hennig with the belt claiming that he had sent a tape of the match to AWA president Stanley Blackburn and that Blackburn had reversed the decision. In the match in question (which took place Thanksgiving night in Minneapolis) Greg had apparently won the title after father Verne hit Hennig with a roll of quarters while the ref was distracted (someone joked, at least I think it was a joke, that Verne hit Curt with the night's gate receipts). This all

leads up to the Christmas show scheduled for Minneapolis that will see a rematch between Greg and Curt with Vern and Larry Hennig strapped together at ringside.

Last issue we reported that this was the only show the AWA had scheduled during the month of December. They have since managed to book a few additional shows, those mainly being spot shows in Illinois and Wisconsin. Rockford is on the schedule as is Green Bay and another ESPN taping.

I had heard that after the first of the year the AWA would be history on ESPN, but I guess they are going to continue for the time being. Pat Tanaka made an appearance on the last set of tapings (taped the day after Thanksgiving in Las Vegas) but he has since reportedly headed to the WOW promotion in Pensacola. This taping was also supposedly the last appearance of Tommy Rich, so what do they go and do? They set up an angle with him.

Rich was wrestling Adrian Adonis (if you can call it that) and after a referee bump, Dangerously and Adonis ganged up on him and "broke" his arm. This seems rather stupid to set up this sort of thing if Rich is leaving, both on the part of Rich and the AWA. If Tommy agreed to do this on his last show, then it leaves him wide open for the AWA to take pot shots at him for running away. If the AWA had something else in mind other than taking pot shots at him, it was stupid to waste the TV time to show an angle that will never get off the ground. The again, the powers that be in the AWA and Tommy Rich will probably never be Rhodes scholar candidates either.

Soldat Ustinov (Jim Lanning) finally got a chance to do an interview. Not bad. The Russian thing is old and tired, but he does have the accent down pretty well. Anyone remember Paul DeMarco playing the Russian part a year or so ago? He sounded more like Shultz on Hogan's Heroes than any Russian I ever heard.

And finally, the Midnight Rockers are on their way back in, for what it's worth. They will take on the Midnight Express on Christmas night in what could be a VERY good match. Let's hope the Rockers haven't gotten too lazy over the past few months. Do I smell a title change? After they walked out lastsummer, I think there's a better chance of Hogan doing a job.

THE THIRD FALL

Nowadays a title will not be lost unless there are several things present at the card or arena. First, Bill Apter and his trusty camera will be there to capture the moments for his magazines. Secondly, there will be an abundance of TV cameras to capture the moment for the TV shows. And finally, unless the city that the match is taking place in is a good sized one, the title belt is safe with the champion.

That's what all the wrestlers thought the night that Verne Gagne defended his belt against Nick Bockwinkel. But Gagne did in fact lose the AWA belt that night despite the fact that NO ONE knew it in advance. That is the outcome of this third fall.

Here's the setting. July 16, 1975 is the date. The setting is John O'Donnel stadium on the banks of the Mississippi River in the small city of Davenport Iowa. Gagne is the champ and he is to defend against long time rival Nick Bockwinkel. The AWA has been running in Davenport and Moline, Illinois for the past fifteen years, bringing in a show every two weeks. The previous show had seen Bobby Heenan interfering on behalf of his charge. This night, Larry the Axe Hennig was to be handcuffed to Heenan to prevent his interference.

everyone involved in the match knew the scheduled outcome. They had rehearsed it many times already, running the same match with the same outcome in cities like Rockford, IL, Milwaukee, WI, and Peoria IL, all with the same exact finish: a clean pin by Gagne in the middle of the ring to retain his title. Not one of them knew as they walked from the dugouts of this baseball stadium to the ring that no matter what they did, Gagne was destined to lose the title belt.

There were no TV cameras to record the events of the night. Bill Apter wasn't at ringside. And Davenport was just too small of a town for a title to change. In these days the only places a title changed was Minneapolis, and occasionally Chicago. That's probably why the fans weren't all that surprised to see Gagne get a clean pinfall over Bockwinkel right in the middle of the ring, just like he had done in all the other smaller cities.

But Bockwinkel was surprised. Heenan was surprised. Hennig was surprised. And Verne Gagne was shocked to say the least. But not at the outcome.

You see, just after the ring introductions, Gagne took off his championship belt, a valuable gold plated trophy complete with some good sized rubies and diamonds, and handed it to a ring attendant who then dutifully placed the belt on the timekeeper's table. And while Verne fought valiantly to defend his title in the ring, a fan at ringside rose ever so slowly from his seat.

He walked up to the timekeeper's table, picked up the belt, turned and walked away from ringside, out of the stadium, and was last seen driving westbound on Interstate 80.

So even though no wrestling history book will ever show that Gagne lost his title in Davenport Iowa on the 16th of July, 1975, the belt was stolen that same night. Gagne retained his title yet lost his belt and could then for the first time ever, claim that someone had stolen his belt (as some champs seem to do when ever they lose a title).

Somewhere in a pawn shop or the basement of a wrestling memorabilia collector, there's a very valuable championship belt. And no doubt that the person with its possession has a very interesting story to tell because he (and now you) knows the outcome of the third fall.

WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO

Back from a short vacation is our most popular column Wrestlers Are People Too. It had to be sent on vacation for a couple of reasons, the main one being space. We also like to try and keep things fresh, so the return after a couple of issues without it should do just that.

I might mention that this particular column was chosen very scientifically...I just reached into the file where I keep these and pulled one out. Even I don't know who wrote this one because it wasn't signed. For those of you new to this feature, this is where we examine the "out of the ring" persona of different wrestlers. I think you'll get the idea as we go along. If you'd like to contribute to this column, feel free to do so. You must sign your letter to me (this one had to have been...just the cover letter was separated from the column) and upon your request (due to the sensitive nature of the column; we don't want a wrestler to think you're betraying their trust) I will withhold your name. On to this issue's WRESTLERS ARE PEOPLE TOO.

BARRY WINDHAM

Super guy. Always willing to help a young guy just starting out in the business. Will never embarrass a young opponent in the ring to make himself look better.

MIKE ROTUNDA

Nice guy who is very underrated as a mat wrestler. Little known fact: Dusty tried to turn Mike into a paesano character when he was in Florida, except Mike didn't do the Italian accent good enough.

RON BASS

Hard to get to know, but becomes a lot more friendly when he realizes he needs your help to get over.

TED DIBIASE

A guy who has paid his dues in the biz and now seems to be enjoying his new image and all the publicity he's getting. He cares whether he has a good match.

GORDON SOLIE

Likes to have his ego stroked. Has little index cards with the info on the new guys in the territory.

JOEL WATTS

Very pleasant guy. Enjoys talking about his area of expertise. Also enjoys his recently increased budget for his work.

KEVIN SULLIVAN

A guy who is willing to help a newcomer by showing him the ropes. Also willing to recognize when he messes up in the ring and apologize for it.

CRAIG DEGEORGE

Having a great time in the biz and gets a kick out of being called the "Bob Costas of pro wrestling". Only problem is...he's doing Marv Albert.

EDDIE GILBERT

Very personable when he wants to be. Has a very quick sense of humor.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

The big news out of here has nothing to do with what is going on in the ring. It would appear from all the reports that I've gotten that Jim Crockett has filed Chapter 11, reorganizational bankruptcy.

If true, it's not as bad as it sounds. Chapter 11 merely protects a person's filing from his creditors while it gives him the chance to organize his finances. There may be some major repercussions from it, however, and we'll take a look there in just a moment.

With the end of the year coming up, the reason for the filing becomes apparent. Crockett has to make good on all the guarantees (to wrestlers) that he has under contract before the year's end. With Starcade flopping, Crockett must protect his interests as far as talent goes and pay his bills who he owes them. Other creditors will have to wait for their money. The move should allow Crockett to keep all his wrestlers happy and paid, while at the same time will tick off people who rent arenas from him. Already the Philadelphia Civic Centre has cancelled the December show. Other arenas are sure to follow suit.

The biggest impact this may have is the deal that was struck with Watts when Crockett purchased the UWF. I'm not sure of the dollar amount of the transaction, however, I do know that it was not a lump sum, rather payments spread out over an eight year period. Those payments that I would guess them to be somewhere around half a million each year are the incentive that Bill Watts needed to stay out of wrestling. If they stop (if they do) we may see the return of the big cowboy. I understand that Ron Mantell has bought the World Class promotion (no bills, sorry) and he would make a good employer for Watts. Folks, the first few months of 1988 are going to be hoppin'!

Now on to what's going on between the ropes...the NWA has been in the city as of late, just like we promised it would. Dusty's brain must have been working overtime to come up with some of these things and some are of pretty good caliber, others stink. Let's look at the good ones:

Lex Luger is now a babyface having split with the Four Horsemen. It could see it coming about a week away and once they broke the hint, they didn't waste any time in shooting the angle. It started with an interview with Lex a week ago. He made some comments about how he wasn't named the hero to the Legend. JJ was mugging in the background (it's more fun to watch JJ on Lex's interviews than it is to watch Lex step all over his own tongue), and finally Lex made the comment that he was his own. Nothing came out of this until the next week. Almost the entire 11/12 TBS show was devoted to the Luger turn. It opened with my Shivey interviewing the Horsemen as they stepped out of their limo, asking them about dissension within the ranks. Just like when he left the Horsemen, they denied it. The show progressed with another interview with Lex being shown. This time he made some comments about the "game plan" being wrong. JJ interrupted him and told Tony the interview was over. Lex then corrected JJ, telling him that the interview was over when he said it was. He went on to say that JJ was his friend and was welcome to accompany him to the ring, but from now on he was going to win and lose matches on his own.

The same the actual turn. In Miami, they taped the Bunkhouse Stampede. The first four in the ring were Tully, Arn, Lex and JJ. JJ wanted to hit the money, but the referee said that there had to be just one winner. JJ asked the other guys to jump over the top rope so that he could be the winner of a Stampede. Tully and Arn both went, but Luger hesitated. Arn jumped up on the ring apron and told him to eliminate himself. Lex asked Arn if he was telling him or asking him. Arn told him just to do it. JJ was waiting for a high five and Luger grabbed him back by his neck and sent him flying out the other side. At this point, Tully ran in the ring, only to be met with a press slam. Arn

rushed him too, but Luger got him up in the backbreaker (he didn't even drop him!). Tully then hit the back of Luger's knee with a chair and Arn, Tully and JJ proceeded to beat him up.

The interviews that followed were all very good. The four horsemen (I guess JJ is now the fourth) made the usual threats, JJ talked about how any Green Bay Packer who didn't follow the game plan of Vince Lombardi (boy that was close) was off the team. Even Luger's babyface interview came across well as he had the studio audience eating out of the palm of his hand. They were silent at the right times and they chanted LU-GER, LU-GER at the right times. The only thing wrong with the interview was that we found that Lex can't concentrate on what he's saying when he's listening to the fans chanting his name. All in all, I thought it was the strongest angle they've done in a long time and it should get Luger over with no problem at all.

Mike Rotundo also made his turn. During a tag match with Ricky Santana as his partner, Kevin Sullivan came to ringside and he and Mike left together leaving Ricky alone in the ring. Will Rotundo be believable as a heel? Who knows? I never thought Terry Taylor would make much of a heel either and he topped my list for best heel of the year. Rotundo can come off in the ring as being very intense and as for interviews, Kevin's there to make up for Mike's lack of public speaking ability so I would guess this one will also be successful. As reported last time, Kevin is coming to the announcer table to comment on Steve Williams' matches also, saying there's no fire left there either and that he could change all that. Shoot, all Doc needs is the return of Ted DiBiase to light his fire!

Meanwhile, The Road Warriors have mysteriously dropped their quest for the Tag title, being content to feud with the Barbarian and the Warlord instead. The feud centers around who is the strongest wrestler in wrestling today. Wake me up when they conclude this one.

The best tag team in the NWA at this point will never see action inside the ring. The combination of Tony Shavone and Jim Ross at the announcer's table has improved the quality of the show several times over. The week before this they did an arena show rather than a studio taping and Tony and Jim really complimented each other well. They worked before at Starrcade and I wasn't particularly impressed with them there so I guess they needed sometime to jell. Coming back to the studio setting, Jim is still with them and David Crockett for the most part has been relegated to doing interviews.

Tully and Arn look like they'll have to feud with the Rock and Roll Express over the straps. They did an interesting angle that seems to have been forgotten for the present...the New Breed came in to make the save for the R&R during an NWA syndicated broadcast and ended up with the R&R telling them to mind their own business. I thought for sure this was the first signs of the Express turning heel, but for some unknown reason, it's just another one of those angles they've put on the back burner. The New Breed will now feud with the Shepherders.

Crockett gave Dusty an ultimatum about turning things around, and it looks like Dusty is at least giving it the old college try. Why, I even enjoyed his Bunkhouse stampede interview where he talked about becoming the bull o' the woods, if you will. Maybe it's because I'm taking his talk of retirement seriously and realize that in just 9,168 hours, the big Dusty push may be over.

Flair will be defending his title during the Bunkhouse Stampedes against some new challengers to freshen things up. Most of his matches will be against either Michael Hayes or Sting. He wrestled Hayes on the TBS show a couple weeks back, but they did one of their famous cut-away endings with the match on the line. They never did show the outcome.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE FIRST LETTER IS UNSIGNED, BUT I COULDN'T RESIST PRINTING IT. THE POSTMARK IS ST. PAUL, MN SO I GUESS ONE OF MY "FRIENDS" IN THE AWA HAS FOUND SOMEONE WHO CAN WRITE FOR HIM...

ON PERSONAL STUFF IN THE BULLETIN...

Go ahead and keep printing all the stuff about yourself. That way we can get an idea of where you live! Someday when you find yourself wondering what hit you, think back to all those clues you gave in print.

-CAN'T SIGN HIS NAME YET-

EDITOR: WELL SINCE YOU ALL UP THERE HAVE SO MUCH TIME OFF FROM WRESTLING, I GUESS YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO WITH YOUR TIME THAN TO LOOK FOR BULLETIN EDITORS. GOOD LUCK!

AND MORE...

In response to John Lanigan's letter regarding the editor's writing of his personal life in the Forum - "Meltzer tells us nothing about himself which is the way it should be." Speaking for myself, I subscribe to the Forum because it IS DIFFERENT from the Observer. Why should I want two fanzines that are just alike? I've made a lot of friends through wrestling and after reading the bulletins, I like to consider the editors friends as well. You don't have all the same kinds of friends do you? Also, I think going into your personal life a little and sharing the problems you encounter trying to get out the Forum shows how much effort goes into putting these things out. Let's face it: it's done for the love of wrestling. No one's getting rich off these things.

-NAME WITHHELD-

MORE...

The person who is sick of your personal life is probably in the minority. It is one of the things along with your unique writing style, unique features and fan participation features that make the Forum so special. As for Dave Meltzer, I've been reading the Observer for about a year and a half now and all I know about him is that he once lived in Texas, lifts weights, and listens to weird music. Is the guy married? Does he have a job? How about a "Bulletin editors are People Too" feature sometime?

-STEVE GENTRY-

-Cincinnati, OH-

EDITOR: DAVE KEEPS HIS PERSONAL LIFE TO HIMSELF FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN THE FIRST LETTER. I HAVE NEVER EVEN SEEN A PICTURE OF HIM SO EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE STUFF WE PRINT, THERE'S NO WAY I'D GIVE OUT ANY INFORMATION THAT I HAD ON DAVE OR ANYONE ELSE THAT DOES A BULLETIN WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION.

STILL MORE...

I wonder how the personal stuff in your bulletin differs from arena food reports, how many shows a person attends, how he has been to shows on every day of the week, condo buying, word processor buying, disco dancing and award winning for photographs. Just wondering.

-NAME WITHHELD-

A FINAL WORD PLUS HOW TO DEAL WITH MARKS

I was amazed by the sheer vehemence of the letter in the last Forum complaining about your personal asides. Granted that the reason for being a subscriber of WF is to share information and opinion about the wrestling field, I still enjoy hearing about what else the editor is up to. Kept within reason, as you do, it makes things more informal and friendlier. Don't change a thing.

The on-going discussion in Forum about how to deal with a mark seems to miss an important point. The fact that wrestling is fixed is hardly a deep dark secret. In fact, I'd say that most intelligent

adults in this country, if they think about wrestling at all. are well aware that it's basically showbiz and the matches are predetermined. They just don't know the mechanics of it -- HOW wrestling is fixed or what goes on behind the scenes. There's a whole class of people who are smart fans, I think. They're people who used to be wrestling fans when they were younger but more or less grew out of it. It's awfully hard to take wrestling personalities and angles seriously once you get to be a certain age. Yet, they still have a residual interest in wrestling -- and would be interested in following it again if they could find a way to do so as an intelligent adult. I've gotten two or three people like that to subscribe to Meltzer's newsletter (now working on getting them to subscribe to Forum) and now they're going to live matches. So far from hurting the business, that's a few extra dollars going into the coffers of Titan and Crockett, I don't know how far the smart fan market could be expanded, but it exists. Like I said, these are people who used to be marks, but grew out of it on their own, and could be made interested in wrestling again if they could do so on a level worth of their intelligence. Publications like Forum can only help, not hurt.

-DWIGHT DECKER-

-Northlake, IL-

FIXED YEAR END AWARDS

Last year you printed a letter by a fan who suggested that Pro Wrestling Illustrated's awards might be fixed. You didn't comment on it. Well, here's some amateur sleuth work that I did. In 1985 the Road Warriors won the Tag Team of the Year award. The cover of the PWI that came out in December or January showed them holding the awards while wearing their AWA tag team belts. The problem is, that they LOST those belts in September...one month before any fan even GOT the issue of PWI with the first ballots. That tells me that they already have the winners picked BEFORE they announce the balloting. Hope your awards aren't the same way.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

NEW YORK CONVENTION

I went to the wrestling convention in New York last month and thought it was badly run. It was poorly attended. The guests were Ox Baker, Lou Albano, Dave Shultz and others. The people who ran it didn't know anything about wrestling and most of the people (a lot of kids) seemed to be marks. They showed tapes from Puerto Rico with no commentary as well as others which were shown without a program/schedule so you didn't know when or where the matches came from. It should have been put on by the fans who know about wrestling and let the Starlog people stick with sci-fi conventions (which they do a great job of).

I also have two questions: 1) Why did Crockett book the Nassau Coliseum instead of a more reachable site? I know Titan has MSG exclusively, but what about the Meadowlands where they ran cards two years ago? And instead of running a big show every two months, why not run a few small shows in high schools or the Felt Forum (where POWW ran a show last month) in between to keep the interest up? 2) What is the purpose of "press conferences"; no the ones on TV shows but the real ones like Crockett had to announce the Nassau show and Starrcade? Who are they for? The newspapers and TV stations don't or hardly ever cover wrestling in NY.

-MIKE RAND-

-Brooklyn, NY-

EDITOR: I CAN ONLY OFFER SOME SPECULATION TO YOUR QUESTIONS...1) I WOULD IMAGINE IT HAD SEVERAL FACTORS INCLUDING BUILDING RENT COMPARED TO SEATING CAPACITY. A SMALLER FACILITY FULL LOOKS BETTER THAN A HUGE FACILITY EMPTY, EVEN IF THE SAME NUMBER OF PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR BOTH SHOWS.

AS FOR RUNNING SHOWS IN BETWEEN, THAT COULD BE SUICIDE AS CROCKETT IS WORKING THE OLD THEORY OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND. THOSE AT THE FIRST SHOW WILL TELL PEOPLE ABOUT IT AND THE BUNKHOUSE STAMPEDE FINALS SHOULD SELL OUT. RUNNING SHOWS IN BETWEEN WOULD KILL THE CURIOSITY SEEKERS WHO BUY TICKETS. 2) IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE, THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS TO GIVE NEW YORK AND TITAN THE IDEA THAT THE NWA ISN'T JUST SOME BUMKIN-RUN PROMOTION FROM THE CAROLINAS. IF IN FACT A FEW STATIONS DID COVER THE EVENT, IT ALSO SERVED NOTICE ON THE WWF THAT THEY WERE ACCEPTING ANY CHALLENGE TITAN COULD THROW THEIR WAY.

STARRCADE IN NEW YORK

The Beacon Theatre in Manhattan was the only closed circuit venue for the November 26 Starrcade in the New York City metropolitan area. At the November 25 live show at the Nassau Coliseum, the NWA did not promote or mention the closed circuit showing of Starrcade at the Beacon. Considering that the Beacon was far from full, it couldn't have hurt the NWA to have mentioned it in front of the large live audience at the Nassau Coliseum. There was tremendous heat at the Beacon Theatre during Starrcade and my vote for match of the year is Flair-Garvin from Starrcade.

-STEPHEN MEYERSON-

-Brooklyn, NY-

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR DUSTY

Here is how the booker's job can be saved and the NWA can become a happy promotion: 1) Flair leaves the horsemen to ally himself with the exiled Lex ("I just don't feel the man is being fairly treated by my fellow horsemen. Lex Luger is pro wrestling's second hottest property."). 2) Lex and Ric are jumped from behind by Tully and Arn and are instantly faces. Crowd reaction is immediate and strong. They love these guys. They always have. 3) Lex and Ric are jumped from behind by (of all people) the American Dream himself and his new sidekick, Dr. Death (the mammoth Dusty push we've seen creates a unique opportunity for him. Facing off vs top credibility people like Ric, Lex and Animal, today's Dirty Dusty Rhodes could create heat never before seen in pro wrestling). 4) JJ announces how proud he is to be with the "new and improved four horsemen". Dusty, Doc, Tully and Arn. Dusty's clearly the boss. 5) Terry Taylor and Eddie Gilbert, both managed by Missy Hyatt, score some tag team upset wins. They become fully credible. 6) With all the combinations now available and a little creativity, TV ratings jump upwards points at a time and arenas are filling. They love Lex. They love Ric. They really hate Dusty and Dr. Death and it's all more heat than you can believe when they go right over the top. Hawk turns on Animal TV ratings go up 2 more points and they need bigger arenas. Everyone makes more money. 7) Dusty is Wrestling Forum's 1988 Wrestler of the Year. The Hawk/Animal feud is Feud of the Year. Pro wrestling is fun again and everyone lives happily ever after. This is of course all contingent upon Dusty Rhodes looking to Ecclesiastics: "To every thing (Turn turn turn) there is a season (turn turn turn)."

-MAD MARC-

-Denver-

EDITOR: GOOD SENARIO, BUT I BET WRESTLING FORUM AND WRESTLING OBSERVER GET FREE PLUGS DURING THE TBS SHOW BEFORE THEY USE IT...

1987 AWARDS

Here is your last chance to vote in our year end awards balloting. We've got twenty eight categories to honor (or otherwise) appropriate recipients in pro wrestling. All you have to do to vote is to jot down your top three choices in each category. If you can't come up with three come up with as many as you can. Anyone reading this is eligible to vote. Voting so far has come in in several ways. One voter sent his on a postcard. The printing was super small, but he made it. Another voter sent nineteen typed pages. You can make comments to go along with the choices if you like. So far, about sixty ballots have come in and we're shooting for one hundred. Anyone who votes will receive a \$2.00 discount on your yearbook (if you order one). The deadline for voting is DECEMBER 30, 1987!!! Any votes received AFTER that date WILL NOT COUNT and you will not receive a discount...NO EXCEPTIONS. Winners will be listed in our regular issue that comes out on January 15. However the yearbook will list COMPLETE results (even those who receive just one point).. A first place vote in any category is worth three points while a second is worth two points and third place votes receive one point.

What follows is a list of the categories and some early leaders in each category along with some picks by our phantom of the ring, Ed gareal. When you vote, be sure to include the number of the category you're voting in. Here we go:

1. **WRESTLER OF THE YEAR:** Ed's comments: This category is always difficult to properly define. Does the winner receive the award for a full, but quiet year's work (as in the case of Curt Hennig)? Or is it for a record setting performance (as in the case of Hulk Hogan; let's face it...all those people didn't come to see Hercules vs Haynes at Wrestlemania)? We can even add a new wrinkle, the winner can be a grappler whose very absence had more impact upon his market than those who attended full time (Riki Choshu). However, in this year's case, I would grant the award to the man who made the biggest splash, Hogan. No one else could have put that many people in the Silverdome. no one else had a bigger impact on the sport. With Hogan a crowd may be 12,000; without Hogan, lucky to draw 4000. 1-Hogan, 2-Hennig, 3-Dalibar Singh. **EARLY LEADERS:** This is an all out war between Hogan and Flair. Hogan is finally getting some of the smart fans attentions for his accomplishments of the year while I suspect that the support for Flair is somewhat of a residual effect. Also receiving enough votes to mention are Hennig, DiBiase and Savage.

2. **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR:** Ed's comments: Not the category it used to be for there are less and less new wrestlers pushed by the promoters. Most here end up competing for jobber of the year. The only newcomer who has impressed me so far (and the impression wasn't that significant) is Brian Pillman of the Stampede territory. **EARLY LEADERS:** Shane Douglas has taken an early lead with Pillman and Paul E Dangerously making it close.

3. **PROMOTION OF THE YEAR:** Ed's comments: Although the WWF had the biggest impact on the sport, and Crockett made huge strides in popularity, the award this year goes to Stampede. Stu Hart has done the most for the integrity of wrestling by keeping the action going and the silliness down to a tolerable level. **EARLY LEADERS:** If someone had told me a year ago that the WWF would even be among the leaders, I would have laughed in their face (or at least in their ear). Yet we have a three way race here with the WWF out in front followed by Memphis and the NWA. New Japan is also garnering some votes.

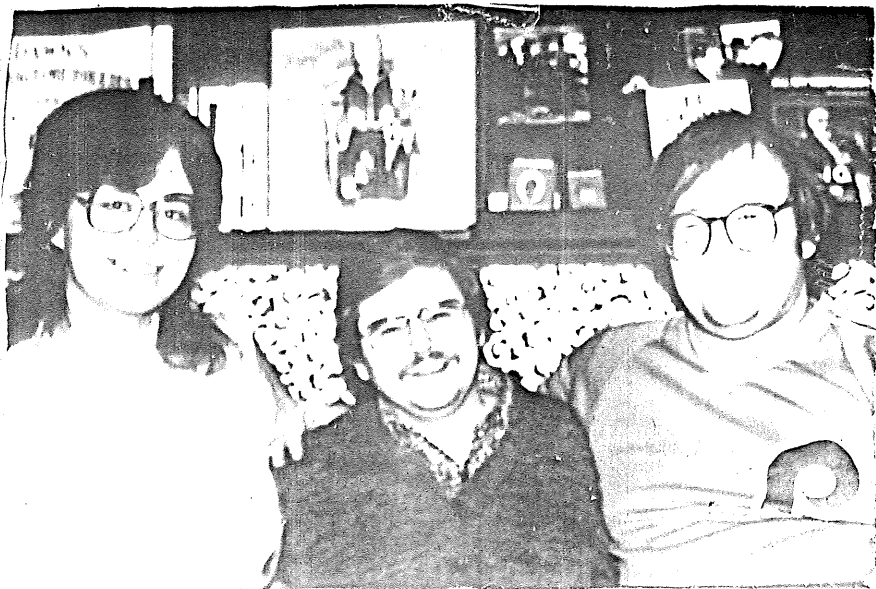
4. **WORST PROMOTION:** **EARLY LEADERS:** it's a toss up between the AWA and World Class although Central States has picked up a few votes as well. POWW and GLOW have had some support (?) too.

5. TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR: EARLY LEADERS: The combination of Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton seem to have the most support here. Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka have their supporters as do Strike Force and the Road Warriors.
6. MOST OVERRATED: EARLY LEADERS: There are four running neck and neck for this award. Steve Williams, Lex Luger, Hulk Hogan and Dusty Rhodes have captured about 80% of the votes between them.
7. MOST UNDERRATED: EARLY LEADERS: this category is the one that drives editors crazy. We have over SIXTY nominees so far...it seems everyone has their own favorite "underrated wrestler". Curt Hennig has taken the early lead but it's precarious at best. Pat Tanaka is right behind as is Terry Taylor and Eddie Gilbert is the dark horse in this race.
8. MATCH OF THE YEAR: Ed's comments: My choice for match of the year is the WMII clash between Randy Savage and Ricky Steamboat. The point is that Savage and Steamboat rarely achieved their potential in other matches, some of which were absolute duds. In Wrestlemania, they showed what they can really do, and that impressed me. EARLY LEADERS: The Flair-Windham match from TBS in early January and the Steamboat Savage match that Ed mentions are the top two choices. The lead between the two literally changes hands every day. The only other matches with more than a few votes are War Games I from Atlanta on 7/4 and the Bockwinkel-Hennig match that went 60 minutes on ESPN. It qualifies because our awards run basically from December to December and it was shown on ESPN on 12/31/86.
9. ANNOUNCER OF THE YEAR: EARLY LEADERS: Jim Ross and Lance Russell lead a small pack. Tony Shavone is receiving a lot of second and third place votes to keep him a respectable third.
10. COLOR COMMENTATOR OF THE YEAR: EARLY LEADERS: You want to know how far Jesse is out in front of all the rest? At this point, he has more POINTS than ALL the other announcers do COMBINED! The race for second place is between Nick Bockwinkel, Michael Hayes and Bobby Heenan. Jesse has been named on all but two ballots in wither 1st, 2nd or 3rd place.
11. JOBBER OF THE YEAR: Ed's comments: The choice here is relatively easy, though there are many worth contenders. My choice is Brady Boone. Boone, until signing with the WWF, was a mid level to main eventer in the Owens promotion. Here in the WWF, he's been relegated to jobsbing for the most part. With many wrestlers, this fall of ego can lead to work problems, but not with Boone. he gives his all in every match I've seen him in; and if you think for one minute that it's easy to carry someone like Butch Reed or Hercules Hernandez, think again. These guys are stiffer than an over starched collar, but Boone makes them look like world beaters. Now THAT takes talent. EARLY LEADERS: Most everyone seems to agree with Ed (and me for that matter) as Boone has taken a commanding lead. Fellow WWF jobbers Barry Horowitz and Steve Lombardi are getting their share of recognition as well.
12. ANGLE OR FEUD OF THE YEAR: EARLY LEADERS: There are four receiving enough support to be mentioned...The Lawler vs Idol and Rich feud, the Steamboat Savage encounters, the Savage turn and subsequent feud with Honky Tonk Man and Hogan-Andre from WMIII are all doing well.
13. DUMBEST ANGLE OR FEUD OF THE YEAR: EARLY LEADERS: Two of the leaders are almost the same angle...we've got the interview with Flair and the mannequin and we've got the Dream Date concept (which includes the film of the date and the Garvin-Flair angle which led upto it). Brian Adias' Oriental tool is a favorite of many (for the reason they invented the whole angle in the first place) and Hogan-Andre is also being named on quite a few ballots.
14. WORST WRESTLER: EARLY LEADERS: Junkyard Dog is starting to pull away from the pack with Jimmy Vakiand, Buggy McGraw, Bob Brown, and George Steele all drawing their share of fire from the fans.

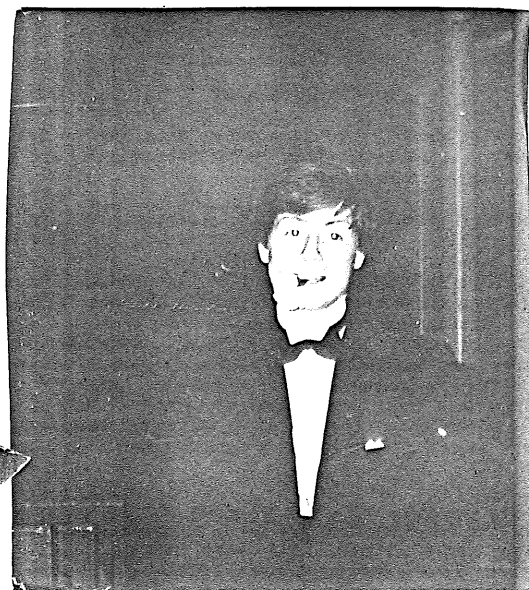
15. **BEST BABYFACE:** EARLY LEADERS: One word. Hogan. second place is up for grabs between the Road Warriors, Savage and Steamboat.
16. **BEST HEEL:** EARLY LEADERS: We've got three leaders here. The lead is up for grabs between Terry Taylor, Honky Tonk Man, and ted DiBiase. All three have held the lead at one time or another and it changes regularly.
17. **MANAGER OF THE YEAR:** EARLY LEADERS: Surprisingly, this is a closer race than you might think. Jim Cornette has captured the most 1st place votes, but Paul E Dangerously has enough 2nd place votes to keep him very close to the lead. Third place is a toss up between Bobby Heenan, Jimmy Hart and Downtown Bruno.
18. **DIPSTICK OF THE YEAR:** EARLY LEADERS: Named for a variety of reasons are Dusty Rhodes, Jim Crockett, Fritz Von Ear Ache, and Verne Gagne. One interesting vote came in here for Virgil Runnels Sr.
19. **BEST TV SHOW:** EARLY LEADERS: I would have thought that Saturday Night's Main Event would have been a runaway winner here bu the Memphis show and the WWF Superstars show are holding their own against the giant.
20. **MOST IMPROVED:** EARLY LEADERS: Look... I've officially retracted my first place vote for Nikita Koloff so stip the hate mail and don't threaten to have me committed, okay? Bubba Rogers, Sting, Lex Luger and Curt Hennig are among the leaders in this category.
21. **BEST FINISHING MANEUVER:** EARLY LEADERS: Take your pick...Diamond and Tanaka's Slingshot DDT, The New Breed's Crotch Catcher, the Road Warriors top rope clothesline, Robert's DDT, and Savage's Elbow drop are all within just a few votes of each other.
22. **WORST FINISHING MANEUVER:** EARLY LEADERS: Garvin has two entries with his punch leading almost everything and his stomp also among the leaders. Hogan's leg bomb and Dusty's weaverlock are right up there too.
23. **BEST INTERVIEW:** EARLY LEADERS: Jim Cornette and Paul E are the favorites here with Ric Flair a dark horse candidate as well.
24. **MOST DISGUSTING EVENT:** EARLY LEADERS: let me make a point here... you didn't have to actually see what you voted for here. The thing where the heels pulled out CW Styles' glass eye down in Georgia, then rolled it around the ring was my choice even though I didn't see it (if I had I might never have watched another match as long as I lived). it has taken quite a few votes. Others in this category include Flair and the mannequin and the way that Fritz handled the suicide of his son Mike. The oriental tool has a few votes too.
25. **BEST REFEREE:** EARLY LEADERS: Tommy Young is the leader with Dave Hedner a close second. Joey Morella is the only other who has any other real support.
26. **BEST NEWSSTAND MAGAZINE:** EARLY LEADERS: Pro Wrestling Illustrated looks like it will take this award for the second year in a row. Wrestling 87 and Wrestling Eye also are getting some votes.
27. **BIGGEST SHOCK:** EARLY LEADERS: Again, three choices top the list... The sale of the UWF, Mike Von Erich's suicide, and Honky Tonk Man winning the IC title are within a few votes of each other.
28. **WORST ANNOUNCER:** EARLY LEADERS: "Look at me Tony! Look at me! I'm out in front!" That should tell you who's leading. David McLaine, Gorilla Monsoon, Ron Trongard and Larry nelso round out the leaders.

In addition to the voting, please fill in the blank...I'M MOST SICK OF _____. There will be no "winner" in this category... we just want some feedback on the rpo wrestling scene.

By the way, if anyone has any suggestions for the yearbook, let us know! We haven't decided quite yet what all is going to be included in it but we will be making those decisions within the next couple of weeks. But for right now...GET THOSE VOTES IN! Time is slipping away!



ED GAREA (RIGHT) WITH WIFE KATHY AND FELLOW BULLETIN EDITOR TOM BURKE



SEAN GRANDE STAYS SLIM WITH A STEADY DIET OF CARNATIONS



JEFF SIEGEL UPON LEARNING HE WON'T HAVE TO DO THE WORLD CLASS REPORT ANYMORE

*Merry Christmas * Happy New Year*

FROM THE STAFF
OF
WRESTLING
FORUM



KELLY HELPS HER DAD TYPE THE NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS LIST

We didn't get a whole lot of response on this, but we did get some good ones. Santa will make sure that those who responded are rewarded appropriately (whatever that means).

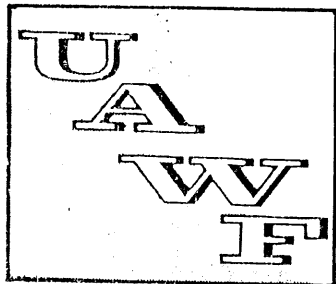
GARY FISHMAN of Kew Gardens, NY offers these suggestions...For BRADY BOONE-Relatives with more influence with the boss...For VINCE MCMAHON-a doctorate in pharmacology so his wrestlers won't have to rely on local druggies (ohhhh)...For DUSTY RHODES-a floor length mirror so he can see his feet for the first time in five years...For BOB GEIGEL-a magic potion to make his wrestlers ten years younger so that they will only be middle aged...For DON MURACO-an alarm clock to wake him up when his matches are over...For LEX LUGER-a map of the ring so he doesn't keep getting lost during his matches...For VERNE GAGNE & FRITZ VON ERICH-a return to 1957 so that their promotional tactics will be considered brilliant and innovative...For Ric Flair-a mannequin that glows in the dark in case the lights go out in his dressing room...For JIM CROCKETT-the key to the city of New York.

ED GAREA, our own phantom, had these items on his list...For RIC FLAIR-silent films of the Keystone Cops so he can learn some new bumps...For PANDY SAVAGE-a belt...PLEASE...For HONKY TONK MAN-thanks that it's not Chuck Berry that he's imitating...For RICK DIERRINGER-anywhere else to play...For GENE OKERLUND-a hundred copies of that stupid video and a decree that he must watch each copy a hundred times...For STEVE DR. DEATH WILLIAMS-Ted...For the FANS-the return of Sam Munchnik.

JEFF ARCHIEY of Nashville compiled a list like this...For JEFF JARRETT-thirty extra pounds of muscle...For DOWNTOWN BRUNO-an updated suit and tie...For HECTOR GUERRERO-a collection of reruns of My Favorite Martian...For ROBERT FULLER, JIMMY GOLDEN AND RON FULLER-a new promotion to go to...For JIM CROCKETT-Jerry Jarrett and Jerry Lawler as new bookers...for the FANS-the return of the cowboy.

MIKE VIOLA of Pittsburgh is looking for some switches and a lump of coal for himself with this wish list...For ANDRE THE GIANT-the world's title to retire with...For BILL WATTS-the UWF back...for the NWA-a time of year when there is no big card to hype...For KAMALA-long lines at the unemployment office...For VINCE MCMAHON-a large dose of humility...for RICK RUDE-a protruding beer belly by the time he's 50...For John Landrum-an IRS audit, insomnia or something as equally annoying as his letter...SEAN GRANDE-another crack at Mike Dunne (inside joke I guess)...for JOHNNY V-a good promotion he can shine in...For RIC FLAIR-a memory loss so that he doesn't have to think about the past year...For Ted DIBLASE-a shot with Hulk Hogan...For DOWNTOWN BRUNO-clean underwear...for MIKE ROTUNDO-a gimmick...For BOB BACKLUND- a standing ovation for the man that he is...For JEFF SEIGEL-peace of mind now that he is no longer going to do World Class...For KEN MANTELL-all the luck in the world with his promotion...For ED GAREA-more than two articles a year for Wrestling Forum...For Mike Viola-"another" evening with Missy Hyatt...For Jon Gallagher-a life sized poster of his biggest hero-Dave Meltzer, and details on Mike's first evening with Missy Hyatt.

And my own suggestions...For LARRY NELSON-some new found respect...For DAVID CROCKETT-a course in public speaking...for ADRIAN ALONIS-an alias...For the VON ERICHS-life insurance in case they decide to go to Japan again...For the JAPANESE WHO HAVE TO WORK WITH THE VON ERICHS-a course in English...For PAUL JONES-a decent stable so we can see if he really is a lousy manager or not...For OX BAKER & BOB BROWN-pacemakers...For the JARRETT FAMILY-a spot on ESPN



United Association of Wrestling Fans

P.O. Box 215

Galesburg, Illinois 61402

LAST CHANCE TO BECOME A CHARTER MEMBER!!!

Just to update you on the progress of the UAWF, those of you who have yet to join the UNITED ASSOCIATION OF WRESTLING FANS, this is your last chance to become a charter member. Charter memberships are open until DECEMBER 31, 1987 ONLY. Charter members will have all the normal benefits of a regular member except that on voting matters, they will have TWO votes instead of just one.

To cover the benefits of membership one last time, members will receive four magazines per year covering the world of professional wrestling. Writers include myself, Dave Meltzer, Bob Closson, JD McKay, Ron Evans, Jack Ortizano, Jeff Seigel, Jeff Archey, Jeff Bowdren, Mike Ginter and others (does this sound like a who's who or what!!!!). Discounts on approved merchandise, awards, and the chance to attend a national convention in late July also go with the membership not to mention a birthday card on or near your birthday signed by a member of the wrestling community. By the way, several of you who have already joined have not included your birthdate with your dues. If you haven't send them along. Anyone who is not listed on our birthday roster will receive a Christmas card next Christmas instead.

THE NEWEST development is the RING OF IMMORTALS. This will be the UAWF's answer to other sports' "hall of fame". Advisory board members will be preparing a ballot of retired wrestlers and general members will cast their votes to induct wrestlers from this list into the ROI. This is possibly the most exciting thing we've done so far, and we've received nothing but positive feedback from it. We will make every effort to get inductees to the convention when held.

Aside from that, just a little editorializing on my behalf. I've heard lots of talk that some people don't want to join because of the WFIA. They feel that dropping membership there to join the UAWF is like deserting an old friend. I know what they mean because I grew up with the AWA being the ONLY wrestling promotion in the world. That's why it hurts so much to see it slowly die. The WFIA is the same way. Under current leadership, there's just not much hope. The reputation it has in the wrestling community will hinder any further growth, not help it. It's time for a new age of wrestling fan clubs and the UAWF is there to fill the void.

If you are dead set on staying with the WFIA, by all means do. We can't tell you how to spend (or waste) your hard earned money. But give the UAWF a try. We sure can't do any worse than they are.

Membership in the UAWF remains \$15.00 for a single membership with any other members of your immediate family eligible for membership (associate) at just an additional \$2.00 each. Associates do not vote and will not receive a magazine, however will receive the birthday card. Mail dues to the above address. Hurry though. Time is running out for Charter Memberships!

PULSE ON PORTLAND
BY GREG ANDERSON

This column will look at the Portland, Oregon-based Owen promotions headed by Don and Barry Owen (father and son). Mat action is held every Saturday night in Portland at the Sports Arena (which Don owns). Salem, the state capitol, sees grappling each Thursday while Eugene hosts pro mat action weekly on Fridays. Spot shows are run throughout Oregon and much of Washington (Seattle was running every other Wednesday until Titan's success in the area and low crowds for Owen shows forced Don to pull out.) There are two TV shows taped during the Saturday Portland cards. One is "Portland Wrestling", a 90 minute local show which is taped and played back later that same night. Another hour, "Big Time Wrestling", airs a week later in most of Washington, and part of Idaho.

Currently booking the territory is Len Denton, who is also the lead heel under the disguise of the masked Grappler. He also holds the Northwest heavyweight title by virtue of a 10/31 victory over lead babyface Mike Miller in Portland. After years of boredom with former lead heel Rip Oliver as booker, Denton has turned the area around. He has beefed up the cards, run more angles and gimmick matches. Attendance has improved in the area as a result and I think our masked booker will be around awhile.

The current Northwest tag champs are the "Southern Rockers", Steve Doll and Scott Peterson. They won the straps with a victory over the Super Ninja (Shunji Takano) and Joey Jackson on 11/7 in Portland.

A new title was recently added here. It is the Northwest TV championship. This is a trophy rather than a belt. Art Barr, a sensational rookie, was put over in a battle royal on 11/21 to become the first titleholder. Joey Jackson is his #1 contender and helped manager Chris Colt cut Art's hair just after the battle royal to set up their feud.

On the heel side, behind Grappler is the recently returned Rip Oliver, who came back on 11/21 after a short stint as a Titan jobber. "Colt's Mafia" consists of Jackson, Avalanche (Paul Neu) and Moondog Moretti. Until recently Super Ninja was a member of this group but left the area following a feud with Brian Adams, the American Ninja (an Inoki trainee fresh from Japan). On the babyface side behind Miller are the Assassin (David Sierra), Doll, Peterson, Coco Samoa and Adams. Joining the ranks of the good guys (although we don't know for how long) will be Matt Borne, who returns home on 12/12. He is reportedly after the Grappler, who supposedly did him wrong in the World Class area (although both were working for Fritz at the same time before Denton came here). Grappler says Matt has to go through the other heels first.

Angles and feuds change almost weekly but a major angle has Colt cutting the hair of several men in the area. Before Art Barr, Mike Miller had a few locks clipped and the latest victim was referee Sandy Barr (Art's dad). Now Chris has thrown out his scissors and has a Freebird-type hair removal cream which he attempted to use on Miller but Mike escaped without getting any of the goop on him. They also have a list to which they add names each time a foe's hair is taken.

On the most recent TV show, Oliver was wrestling Miller when the Grappler attacked him. The heels doubled up on him until the Assassin ran in with two bullropes and he clobbered both bad guys with them and they fled. A double bullrope match between the four was scheduled for the 12/12 Portland card. Abudda Dein, The Arab (Rocky Laukea, son of King Curtis) returns around Christmas time. He was here about a year ago and left to get married but never returned. Another bout signed for 12/12 was Matt Borne against Avalanche, plus a tag title match.

Now that you've had a proper introduction to the area, next issue we will begin our regular reports on the current mat action in the Northwest.

STAMPEDE WRESTLING

Since this is our first report on the Stampede promotion based in Calgary, Alberta Canada, we'll do this one the way we do with all promotions that we just start to cover. A quick rundown of the talent along with major feuds and champions follows.

Leading babyfaces among the group are Owen Hart, a very talented worker and possibly the best of all the Hart brothers including Bret. Owen currently holds the North American Championship although he tends to lose the championships he holds and gets "injured" a lot due to his frequent trips to Japan. His brother Bruce teams with a leading candidate for rookie of the year Brian Pillman and they hold the International Tag team championship. Collectively they are known as Bad Company. Mike Kirschner is working here and has been promoted from the rank of Corporal (which he held while in the WWF) to Colonel. Johnny Smith, cousin of Davey Boy Smith, as well as Phil Lafleur and Biff Wellington round out the corps of babyfaces.

Leading heels at this point are Gama Singh, who holds the Commonwealth Mid Heavy-weight championship, Makhan Singh, a 380 pound monster who is very green but tries as hard as anyone, Jerry Morrow, Hushif Kahn, Kerry Brown, and newcomer Steve DiSalvo. Also here are Zodiak (WWF jobber Barry O (Orton)) who is doing a variation of Kevin Sullivan's devil worship schtick and doing it very well. Garfield Portz from England is also listed on the heel roster. He worked in the WWF and Florida under the name of Scott McGhee and is the son of 60's star Geoff Portz. Bad News Allen as well as Diamond Timothy Flowers are scheduled in soon as well.

Current feuds see Kirschner and Makhan Singh (real name Mike Snow) with Kirschner claiming that Singh, Snow, or as the good colonel called him, Sean Michaels, is a draft dodger. Bad News Allen has been doing some TV interviews that appear that he will be feuding with Kirschner soon bringing the draft dodger angle to an end.

Bad Company has just finished up a feud with Makhan Singh and Jerry Morrow. They have been feuding for quite a while with the tag team belts being held up since October. The heels won the belts on 11/11 in Great Falls, Montana, but lost them back to the faces on the 13th in Calgary.

DiSalvo and LaFleur are currently embroiled in a feud over who is the stronger. DiSalvo has about a 40-50 pound weight advantage over the talented LaFleur. DiSalvo is still a little green and people have not enjoyed working with him in the past due to this; he has legitimately injured guys in the past from just a lack of experience combined with his tremendous strength.

Jason the Terrible, a take off of one of the Friday the 13th movies, has just turned babyface and is feuding with former partner Zodiak. Jason wears a hockey mask and Barry O also wears a hood, so the matches over the past couple of weeks have been mask vs mask matches. We should have the results of those next issue.

Bruce Hart is the booker here and his father Stu owns the promotion. Brother Owen is in the beginning stages of something with Kerry Brown for what should be a short series of matches culminating with Owen injured, as he is headed for Japan in January.

Hiroshi Hase was known as the area's best technician, but he has left after being injured by Jason on Friday 10/13 (how appropriate) in a match where he bladed for the first time in his career.

Stampede runs weekly shows in Calgary (where they average about 750 in attendance) and in Edmonton (about 600). This promotion has long been thought of as a place where wrestlers from Japan and England can stop off to get some quick experience before heading back to Japan or into the states.

THE BATTLE OF THANKSGIVING AFTERMATH

If it had been a football game, the New York team would have controlled the entire game. The defense would have constructed a brick wall at the 50 yard line and the team from Charlotte would never have gotten past it let alone scored. Meanwhile the New York offense would have put on an aerial display the likes of which had never been seen before. Get the picture? Starrcade died and the Survivor Series shone bright.

The mere fact that Crockett has supposedly filed for protective bankruptcy should tell the whole tale. Going just a little deeper, the WWF remains at it's previous number one position and Crockett also remains at number two, yet a lot further behind.

Titan knew every move that Crockett was going to make before Crockett knew he was going to make it. It was almost like watching a chess game between a master and a rank amateur. The pay per view show from Titan was done for only one reason: to make sure Crockett didn't get a foothold on pay per view. Titan didn't expect to make money. The money that they made was a bonus. More importantly, they had another successful pay per view event, strengthening their "monopoly" on that market. Crockett had to cancel a few closed circuit locations due to poor advance sales. Other locations such as Minneapolis, didn't draw enough fans to even pay the rent on the building, let alone the satellite hook ups.

But it didn't have to be that way. Crockett had an option open to him that would have destroyed the success of Survivor. He could have shown Starrcade on FREE TV.

Can you imagine what would have happened if Crockett would have gone to Ted Turner and offered to buy three hours of time on TBS Thanksgiving night? The cost would have been similar to the expense of the satellite hook ups, yet Crockett could have sold air time for commercials. His merchandising could have been marketed as well. More importantly, the use of FREE TV would have taken away a major portion of Titan's audience for the pay per view special. It would have hurt McMahon's credibility with cable operators; credibility that was already low due to his loaded gun tactics concerning his strategy of getting Starrcade off the systems. The situation could have been reversed completely and just when Vince thought he could yell check, Crockett's move would have spelled CHECKMATE.

Surely he wouldn't have lost any more money this way than he did with the way he pursued things. He might not have even had to file for chapter 11.

Crockett will once again try for a pay per view spectacular on January 24 with the finals of the Bunkhouse stampedes. Rest assured that Titan won't be sitting around letting them get their foot in the door this time either. Unless Mr. Crockett gets some better business sense, it won't matter how many hot angles he has going...he'll be in the same boat with Fritz and Verne...and wrestling will suffer because of it.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

Wrestlemania IV continues to be set up with a variety of angles leading up to the event. The latest Saturday Night's Main Event was taped from the Capital Centre in Landover, MD on December 7 (there is some significance with that date), and from what they shot, Andre should be \$500,000 over by Wrestlemania that they won't have any problem filling up the Superdome in New Orleans.

In the main event, Hulk had his rematch with King Kong Bundy. During the match they had to take one of their famous commercial breaks so the ref got squashed between Hogan and a Bundy avalanche. While he was being carted out on a stretcher and another ref took his place, they of course, went to the commercial. The match resumed and Hogan won the thing with a leg drop (surprise, surprise). Then Andre stepped up on the ring apron. Hogan motioned for him to come on in the ring and Andre backed off. When Hogan turned his back to do some posing, Andre attacked grabbing his hair and beating on his head. He got Hogan into a choke hold and in came the British Bulldogs to make the save. Except that Andre disposes of them like they were flies. He rams their head together and they go flying over the top ropes. Enter Strike Force, JYD, and Jake the Snake. Nothing they did phased Andre and he continued to choke Hogan. Enter Hacksaw Duggan with his 2 x 4. He cracks Andre across the back and still nothing. The second swing got Andre's attention long enough for him to let go of Hogan and start after Duggan. Duggan hightailed it out of the ring while the others in the rescue crew drug Hogan to safety. Andre picked up the championship belt and held it up to his waist. He finally throws it down, a fan runs up and grabs it (shades of the third fall) and gives it to security (so much for history repeating itself). Andre gets showered with crushed cups and anything else the fans can manage to toss his way.

Without a doubt, this will set up the main event at Wrestlemania IV, and with the performance of Andre, should guarantee yet another success. The problem that I have with it is very simply, when Hogan disposes of Andre at WMIV after this buildup, no one will ever take another challenger seriously. After all, Andre can't be affected by the champ, the tag team champs, the DDT specialist or a 2 x 4 so who besides Hogan can beat someone like that? And after Hogan disposes of Andre, is One Man Gang going to be that serious of a contender? It would seem that McMahon isn't thinking beyond Wrestlemania this year, something that he in the capacity of booker has not done before.

There is a contingency plan should something happen that Andre can't make it to Wrestlemania this year. You've all seen it and are probably wondering what the hell is going on. It revolves around Ted DiBiase and his attempt to 'buy' the belt from Hogan. They're making a real big deal out of it with absolutely no one, including Jesse, taking Ted's side. On an attempt to interview Hogan, Craig DeGeorge was told by the Hulkster that DiBiase had gotten to his family with seven digit numbers. He was enduring the most pressure he ever had as a champion. Hogan would not comment on this until "next week" (which should be about the time you receive this bulletin). He will of course, turn down the offer, but they will keep this somewhat alive until the final plans for Wrestlemania are completed. You'll remember they did a similar thing with Orndorff last year when they had a cage match and they "tied" getting out. Should the Andre match have fallen through due to Andre's health, they were going to hold up the title and have it decided at WMIII. Give the WWF credit...they think of everything.

Other matches from the SNME taping can be found in our results section. It will air on NBC on 1/2/88. Thanks to Fred Naarisma, Chris and David Piluk, Bruce Ginevan, and the guy from the deli for supplying

all the information.

Another big story, and this point it's just a rumor, but it comes from a very good source, is that Bruiser Brody and Nord the Barbarian will enter the WWF just after the first of the year. Their stay won't be a long one, however in the short time they're there, they are going to destroy everything in their path.

Getting back to the Dillface thing, have you noticed how all the managers and heels are objecting to his attempt to buy the title? No, I don't think it's a way to turn him babyface, rather a way to set him apart from everyone else - make him a complete loner with no friends on either side of the fence. One more bit of "wondering"...I wonder if Ted will have the same effect on Soul Train as he did on Doc. At least Doc had some potential when he started wrestling. Virgil-Soul Train was the pits in Memphis and it'll be a miracle if Ted can do anything with him.

Last issue in the wrestling Barometer, we had the old timer's Battle royal listed in that what's hot category. Someone wrote asking what it was all about. That's when I went back through the last couple of issues and found out WE HADN'T EVEN MENTIONED IT. Sorry. Anyway, to combat the NWA's Nassau show, the WWF held a card at the Meadowlands just a couple days before. Entered in the battle royal were nineteen of the sport's greats (and not so greats). Combatants included Tony Garea, Baron Miguel Sicuna, Sailor Art Thomas, Pedro Morales (who got the biggest reception), Edward Carpentier, Al Costello (one of the original Fabulous Kangaroos), Gene Kiniski, Gino Brito, Bobo Brazil (who got a good reception), Dominic DeNucci, da Crusher (no heat at all), Nick Bockwinkel, Pat O'Connor, Ray Stevens (who had the AWA's permission to be there believe it or not), Rene Goulet, Jay Strongbow (another good reception), Lou Tiez (nothing), Killer Kowalski, and Arnold Skallund. They looked like they were having fun especially Kowalski. The end came down to Crushe, Stevens, Bockwinkel, Tiez and O'Connor. Crusher was thrown over by Stevens leaving an old tag team against two of the all time greats. Stevens was thrown out (actually he jumped out - it looked really bad) by Tiez and Bockwinkel went courtesy of O'Connor. They then worked about three minutes with old style takedowns and mat work. Fascinating. Some leather lunged idiot (who if he ever needs brain surgery, all they'll have to do is unzip his pants) was yelling "Boring!". Anyway, O'Connor finally went over (took a nice bump) and Tiez was the winner.

Billy Graham has officially retired (Dusty, take note) and Don Muraco will resume his feud with Butch Reed. I thought we were going to have to sit through that gross surgery again, but the did spare us.

Demolition injured Brady Boone again, so this rejuvenates the Billy Jack involvement. Boone and BJ are supposed to be cousins, but I remember a while back BJ doing an interview on Portland TV and when he was re-introduced to Brady, he couldn't remember his name. They were probably just practicing until they got to the WWF.

Greg Valentine will resume a forgotten feud with Brutus Beefcake. Valentine was set to head off to Vrockettland before they promised to involve him in some singles matches and add a bit to his paycheck. Jimmy Hart will be his new manager. Anyway, he had a match with Beefcake where he applied the figure four and refused to release it. All the time Brutus should have been selling great pain, he was busy reaching for those stupid hedge trimmers. If this one lasts long, I think we've got a good candidate for dumbest feud of 1988.

Shammies coming up this Saturday night. Why in the (H%*(are they calling it the 37th annual? The WWF hasn't even been in existence that long! If some one can answer that it will save a bulletin editor from going completely over the edge. Besides awards for songs on the Piledriver album, awards will also be given out for things like "Best Numb!". How about Gorilla for that one?

UNIVERSAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

This will be the last UWF report as I'm going to be combining it with the NWA report. Nothing much happens here that doesn't affect the NWA or vice versa, so the report has become redundant. I suspect that in the months to come, we'll be seeing all the UWF titles unified with the NWA anyway. Shortly after January 1st, the NWA is to move their offices to Dallas which will be the signature on the death certificate.

I hope that the UWF-NWA will remember a few things when it comes to the fans. A story from our local area may parallel this to some extent.

Lawn Boy Lawn mowers used to be made in Galesburg (a nearby town). The factory employed about 1200 people. Almost without warning, the factory pulled up stakes, gave all employees pink slips and moved south the the Sun Belt. The generous factory owners offered every employee the chance to move south with them (guaranteed job but no moving expenses, no help in finding housing). To make a long story as short as possible, you can't buy a lawn boy lawn mower with in 50 miles. That's how ticked off the people were and still are.

The move of the NWA may have the same effect in two areas. The fans in the old mid-south area are going to be upset because Mr. Crockett has destroyed what was the best wrestling promotion in wrestling. They may accept the likes of Ric Flair, the Road Warriors, etc, but they're not going to forget BillWatts. Meanwhile, the folks in the Carolinas aren't going to be happy about losing their NWA and all the spot shows that went with it. They are already upset that they didn't get Starrcade and this move won't help any at all.

Why they didn't just "trade" promotions, I'll never know. They could have moved the UWF crew out to the Carolinas while taking the big boys to the metropolitan area of Dallas. This might have somewhat satisfied the fans in Charlotte. As for what will happen...well, Crockett had better make sure that every show he puts on in both areas is top notch. He's got a lot to make the fans forget about.

Looks like the new Breed will feud with the Sheepherders. The outcome will depend on whether a face or heel team in the nwa has the belts at unification time.

MEMPHIS

Boy did things get hot here in a hurry! Two major stories top the news so lets get to the most shocking one first.

A new Manager in the area, Mark Gulcen (who looks a lot like Curt Hennig in a tux) and has some sort of a weird accent (sounds like a Russian who learned English in London) has started a stable to be known as the the House of Gulcen. He came out for an interview and told the audience and Lance Russell that there was one tag team that he had his eye on because they were the best looking prospect he had ever seen. He then brought out the Midnight Rockers, Shawn Michaels and Marty Janetty. He offered them \$5000 to join his stable. They told him it wasn't worth it. He upped the ante to \$15,000 and finally \$20,000. At this point Jerry Lawler came out to give some advise and the Rockers told him they didn't need his advise. Still they refused to to make a decision untill the following week. The next week, the Rockers infact took Gulcen's offer and are now working as heels and have already faced the babyface team of the Nasty Boys (can you believe that match up with the roles reversed!!!!).

This should go over fairly well as the Rockers have been very arrogant on their interviews as of late, almost acting as if they were too good for the Memphis promotion. The trouble is, they weren't trying to be arrogant. That's just the way they came off to the fans in the area. They weren't getting over as faces like we originally thought because of their predecessors the Fabulous Ones and the Rock and Roll Express. The fans in that area see them as nothing more than cheap copies of the originals and because of that, no relationship with the fans ever really got a chance to develop.

The other big story is the fact that this promotion has decided to combine and unify all the Singles titles into one title. Promoter Eddie Marlin made the announcement saying that every promotion seems to have a number of titles nowadays and that each title means less and less. Therefore the CWA had decided that they would combine and unify the International title along with the Mid America title and the Southern Heavyweight championship. A tournament was to be held with the three holders. Two would face off against each other and the winner would take on the third with the winner of that match getting a shot at Curt Hennig that same night. Now Jerry Lawler held the Southern belt at this time with Jeff Jarrett holding the Mid America title and Manny Fernandez with the International title. The three names were dropped in a hat and two were drawn out. Everyone expected Manny to go against one of the babyfaces with the winner to face the other. But to everyone's surprise (mine included) the two names pulled were Jeff and Jerry. Both did babyface interviews with a lot of speculation as to who (if anyone) would turn. The night of the match saw Lawler and Jarrett face off in a very scientific match. Jeff had said in an interview that he didn't think Jerry would use his fist in the match. Jeff had Jerry in an armbar and was continuing to deliver a series of Elbows to the arm. Lance mad the comment that if it was anyone else, Jerry would have hit him by now. Almost on cue, Jerry slapped Jeff. Jeff backed off and when Jerry came in for the kill, Jeff hit him with a punch of his own which Lawler sold to the max. Jeff then hit Jerry with five successive dropkicks that were some of the best seen this year. Jeff went to the middle rope to do a dropkick from there, but Lawler managed to move at the last possible second. He then put Jeff in a backslide for the pin.

In the next match, Lawler won the match after Manny was disqualified for hitting him with a chair. They worked an angle where Lawler's arm was injured by the chair enough that he could not wrestle the next match against Hennig. Lawler was allowed to pick his replacement and he picked Jeff Jarrett. Jarrett lost the title match against Hennig, but he looked

extremely good. So what we have here as a result of creative booking is this: Jarrett loses two matches yet gets himself more over by looking great in both matches; he still believable as a contender; Lawler shows he still has some heel moves left in case he ever needs to turn yet he redeems himself by choosing Jarrett to replace him in the championship match, and everybody hates Manny just a little bit more.

Meanwhile, Jeff and JJ Funk continue to have some good feuds around the circuit. It seems that they were all prepared for a bit of fight over the use of JJ's name (the WWF had supposedly trademarked it) but there has been nothing coming out of Titanland that shows they are upset.

Announced as coming in are the Bruise Brothers. Somehow I just don't think it's the original Bruise Brothers and after talking with Brian Trammel, it could be the Canadian Kodiaks who had a cup of coffee with Crockett.

Scott Hall will be back soon. Jeff Bowdren reports that he saw him while in Japan and he has really improved. It's funny...the AWA had been grooming him for the world title there, yet after he left there, gave a small push in Florida before Crockett took over, he been almost hiding somewhere.

And finally, Jeff Archey is reporting about a strange battle royal that's going around. It seems that each wrestler has to "put up \$1.00 for each pound he weighs" and then the promotion will match the total amount and the winner takes all. The winner has been getting a total of \$7,754.00 for any of those who are interested.

WORLD CLASS

Not much news coming out of Texas these days...Jeff didn't send in his usual report because the show has been pre-empted in Chicago for the past couple of weeks. We have some stories from Japan that would keep you in the aisles rolling around...but discretion prevents me from relating them here.

I guess the biggest rumor from here is the apparent sale of the World Class organization to Ken mantell. I've not been able to check out the rumor, but it does have some strong support. This is significant because Ken was Bill Watts' booker during the heyday of the old Mid South. Let's hope that it's true; there might be some hope for wrestling after all.

According to the people I've talked to, Fritz has been wanting out of the business for some time now. Mike's death must have had more of an impact on him than he showed with his crass commercialization of the tragedy. This could mean the last we've seen of the Von Erich All American halo that seems to be seen around the boys' head (only by Fritz and the blind WCCW fans).

What little else we have is this...although Jeff last issue compared The Thing to Pampero Firpo, I can add one thing to the details...he looks like a tie-dyed Pampero Firpo...his hair is dyed like a rainbow. And he don't like selling anything. If you thought the Missing Link was bad...you ain't seen nothing yet.

Kerry reportedly looked decent during the Japan swing. He's certainly not the old Kerry in that he won't be doing the aerial stuff like dropkicks or anything, but the fans in World Class won't notice for a while. He should still be good enough to hold the WCCW championship (unless mantell has taken over), but we sure won't see any matches like he had with Flair when he won the NWA belt.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

11-24 HILLSVILLE, VA (NWA) - COURTESY OF LARRY LOVELL... John Savage pinned Gladiator #1 (Gary Royal)... Ricky Santana over Rocky King... Mike Rotunda beat Thunderfoot #1... Kevin Sullivan pinned Eddie Gilbert... Rick Steiner over Kendall Windham... Valiant/McGraw/Wilbur won by DQ over Ivan/Barbarian/Warlord... Barry Windham pinned Arn Anderson... NOTES: This was just a spot show before Starrcade... Sullivan played the babyface in his match with Gilbert although he used the ropes to get the pin... can you imagine how dreadful the six man tag must have been (Larry didn't say)?

11-25 PROVIDENCE, RI (WWF) - COURTESY OF ANTHONY PARILLO... Killer Bees beat Volkoff/Zhukov... Rick Rude beat Paul Orndorff by count out... Mike Sharpe upset Ivan Putski... DiBiase beat Hogan by count out... Glamour Girls (Kai-Martin) pinned Jumping Bomb Angels... Bam Bam Bigelow over King Kong Bundy... Hart Foundation over the Bulldogs... NOTES: Attendance 10,800+ (not a sellout)... Orndorff won a posedown before match with Rude... Sharpe pinned Putski with a foreign object in the forearm brace... Andre was at ringside with DiBiase and Headbutted Hogan to cause the count out...

12-4 ALBUQUERQUE, NM (WWF) - COURTESY OF JIMMY KELLOGG... SD Jones over Steve Lombardi... Hart Foundation beat Koko/George Steele... Muraco defeated Butch Reed... Demolition over Billy Jack and Patera... DiBiase downed Beefcake... Bigelow beat One Man Gang... Rude beat Orndorff... NOTES: Attendance 3200+... Beefcake stole money from DiBiase and threw it to the crowd... Orndorff attacked Rude before the posedown so it never took place... Reed could be seen calling the spots against Muraco... Piledriver album played to death during intermissions...

12-5 PHILADELPHIA (WWF) - COURTESY OF JAMMIE WARD... Outback Jack pinned Barry Horowitz... Ultimate Warrior beat Iron Mike Sharpe... Bulldogs beat Bolsheviks... Dino Bravo pinned Hillbilly Jim... Hercules over Junk Yard Dog by count out... Jake downed Sika... Hogan beat Gang... Strike Force over the Islanders... Bigelow defeated Bundy... NOTES: Attendance 9000... originally Jim was to face Hercules and Dino vs JYD... we figure Hercules must have lost a coin flip backstage... Strike Force-Islanders not as good as usual... it was their third meeting in two days though... Andre headbutted Bigelow and Hogan came out to make the save... Killer Bham was a no show and may be gone... Bob Orton was a no show and he was in fact fired.

12-6 SPRINGFIELD, MA (WWF) - COURTESY OF DAN REILLY AND RON LEMIEUX... Outback Jack over Barry Horowitz... Warrior beat Sharpe... Dino Bravo beat Hillbilly Jim... Bulldogs defeated Bolsheviks... Bigelow pinned Bundy... Jake Roberts beat Sika... JYD beat Hercules by DQ... Strike Force downed the Islanders... NOTES: Attendance 1700... this was this crew's fifth show in 48 hours so everyone was tired... Bulldogs-Bolsheviks was dreadful... Bigelow-Bundy not much better... SF Islanders was a luberjack match and Tama and the Bulldogs almost got into it after the match... Tama was pinned while arguing with Dynamite Kid.

12-7 LANDOVER, MD (WWF SATURDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENT TAPING) - GRADES AND REPORT BY DAVID PILUK...Ultimate Warrior over Mike Sharpe (dark match, grade of D-)...Hacksaw Duggan pinned Harley Race (dark match also. Only thing that kept crowd into match was Duggan's HI-OOOOH. Grade D)...Rude pinned JYD (taped. fast match with usual Dog tricks - headbutts etc. Rude dropped knee off top rope for the pin. Grade C-)...Strike Force over Bolsheviks (taped. two of three falls with Martel getting Zhukov to submit to Boston crab in 1st fall and Boris doing the job in the 2nd after getting hit with Slick's cane. Grade C+)...Junkyard Dog demanded and got a rematch with Rude and won this time (taped...may edit the first one.)...Bravo beat Jim (dark and pathetic...D-)...Hogan pinned Bundy (see WWF report for angle. Grade C+)...Islanders downed bulldogs (Tama jumped off top rope while DK was pinning Haku. Dark match grade C)...Valentine beat Koko B Ware by submission (taped. Beefcake was in Koko's corner but was made to go back to dressing room. He runs back in and Valentine takes off. Koko catches and holds Jimmy Hart while Beefy clips some hair - no hair fell off though. Grade C)...Jake Roberts over Sika (taped. Jake got the pin off a rollup. Fuji tried to hit Jake with cane but got DDT'd and snaked. Fuji sold well. Grade D)...Savage over Honky Tonk by DQ (dark. lumberjack match. Savage elbow dropped ITM but Islanders came in to make the save and a mini-battle royal ensued. Grade C+)...NOTES: Play by play is added later. Vince and Jesse came out before the last match to do the intro to the show and Vince asked the crowd to show "exuberation"...Air date is January 2...Andre was sweating badly while just standing around the outside of the ring.... he looks really bad.

12-13 ST LOUIS (WWF) - COURTESY OF HARRY WHITE...Warrior beat Iron Mike...Sam Houston defeated Ron Bass...Valentine over Steele by DQ...Hercules beat JYD...Andre and Rick Rude defeated Hogan and Orndorff...Dibiase over Steamboat...Strike Force won by DQ over Hart Foundation...NOTES: Attendance 4500...George Steele was entertaining...he threw four chairs into ring and the ring bell...before match he grabbed Valentine's robe, put it on, took it off, stomped on it then elbow dropped it...he did Hogan's bit with the crowd deciding what turnbuckle to eat...Andre pinned Orndorff after headbutting him from behind...Virgil held Steamboat's legs...Naidhart hit Martel with the belt for the DQ in that match.

WE NEED RESULTS!!! Please help us fill these two pages. We've had some trouble doing that of late. If you attend a card, send in the results or call them in.

Some last minute notes...I will be on vacation due to a plant shutdown from 12-19 through 1-3. If you'd like to call during that time, I'll be home decent hours. Phone number is (309) 289-2662.

Sorry about the extremely small print. We couldn't make it to the regular printers (see Misc stuff section) and had to use the only copier in town we could find. Back to normal next issue.

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

TRIVIA TIME...Last issue's question was "What do Gorilla Monsoon's license plates say?" The answer is "KAY-FADE" which of course is a code word meaning someone who believe wrestling is real. There is no trivia question for this issue as I'm going to give it a short rest for a few issues. If you have any interesting trivial type questions send them along and we might bring it back.

I've got a feeling that the human waste material is about to come in direct contact with the rotating oscillator. All Pro Wrestling magazine, the official UWF magazine has a new title. It's called "NWA PRO WRESTLING DIGEST". The problem is, there is already a bulletin put out by JD McKay by the same name. There may not be a problem and two may be able to peacefully co-exist, but I don't think I'll come out of my bunker until the air is clear. JD's address is Rt 5, Box 66, Louisville, MS 39319 and the bulletin goes for \$2.00 per issue.

Getting a couple of reader requests out of the way, Steve Bryant (who just happens to be JD's photo editor) has photographs for sale. Just send for a photo list to Rt. 2, Box 25, West Point, MS 39773. Steve is going to be supplying some photos for the UAWF magazine as well.

I got this huge tape list from John McAdam that has just about every tape you can imagine and then some. A list is yours for just \$1.00 (to cover printing costs and postage). He has tapes from around the globe as well as some stuff from the 50's to present. John's address is 305 Brookville Road, Nashua, NH 03062.

Fred Wall is reporting from Canada that Lyle Alzado, former football player and star of Sports Illustrated commercials is going to start filming of a new TV sit-com this next week. It's to be called "Learning the Ropes" and will be about a construction worker who wrestles at night. Scheduled to appear at the first taping are Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, Ron Garvin, the four horsemen, and the Road Warriors. The show is being done in Toronto and has not been picked up by any of the networks. We are guessing that it will be syndicated this fall or spring.

Jeff Bowdren, who usually does our Florida reports, has just returned from a dream vacation in Japan. He will be reporting in with highlights of the trip over the next few issues (let's hope he includes some of the Von Erichs over Japan stories -- like Kevin telling one of the Japanese to go ahead and "shoot" with him...good thing the Japanese guy didn't speak English). Anyway, for those of you who are interested the trip included the tag team tournaments for both Japanese promotions. The New Japan (Inoki's group) saw Tatsumi Fujinami and Kengo Kimura win that tournament with a final over Antonio Inoki and Dick Murdoch when Fujinami pinned Murdoch. The All Japan tournament went to Jumbo Tsuruta and Yoshiaki Yatsu over Bruiser Brody and Jimmy Snuka with Yatsu pinning Snuka. The tournament was interesting from the stand point that there was some shooting going on. One example was with Ricki Choshu, Japan's most popular wrestler and Akira Maeda. Choshu had his opponent in the scorpion deathlock and Maeda came in the ring and faced him. This is a standard occurrence in Japan as somebody always attacks Choshu while he's got this hold on. Maeda stood there for a few seconds before catching him in the face with a shoot kick. The kick shattered the cheekbone below Choshu's eye and put him legitimately out of the tournament. Maeda was suspended for his actions. More in issues to come.

Just a quick note to those of you who have joined the UAWF. Membership handbooks are being printed as soon as this bulletin goes out and certificates of membership are being printed as I type this. They should all be in the mail to you with in the next week.

ARE WE GOING TO BE LATE AGAIN?!?! Not if I can help it. This area of the country got buried under about 8-10 inches of snow last night accompanied by 40-50 mile an hour winds. Now I know that our readers in Minnesota laugh that sort of weather off, but us Illinoisans freak out when the snow plow drivers say, "Forget it! I ain't goin' out in that (\$%%&)&!" The bottom line is here, we have no way to get the copies reduced and we're out of paper. Mary is on the phone as I type this trying to find someone within walking distance with a copier that reduces and someone we can buy about three reams of paper from. Nothing is open. The banks are closed, the schools are closed...I love winter.

But how about some good news...For those of you who participated in the Wrestling Forum Tournament, we promised some prizes, and Sean has sent me along a list of the winners. Here they are: JACK THOMPSON-Salt Lake City wins a 4 issue extension to Forum...DAN REILLY-Enfield, CT wins a 2 issue extension (since he won a lifetime subscription in our last contest that means he gets two issues after he dies)...JOHN LANIGAN-McKeesport, PA wins a 2 issue extension...JOHN PANTOZZI-Brooklyn NY wins a Cobo Arena program circa 1969-70...HARRY WHITE-St Louis, MO wins a Cobo program as does BOB MANGANO of Novato, CA...JOE LILLY of Clifton Heights, PA is the winner of a two issue subscription to Pro Wrestling Digest (JD's version)...VICTOR MARTINEZ-Lubbock TX wins a set of Wrestling Observers...KIM WILSON-Columbus, OH wins a video tape of her choice...and BRUCE GINEVAN-Pasadena, MD is the winner of the 1987 yearbook. Congratulations to all and thanks to all who made the 1987 tournament a success. We'll go again in a couple of months

We'd like to remind you to also cast your votes in our Wrestling Barometer...our readership poll of what's hot and what's not for the month. Votes go to JEFF SIEGEL, BOX 5461, Evanston, IL 60204...Just to give you an example of what a ballot should look like, here's mine for the month: WHAT'S HOT: 1-Lex Luger's turn...2-Jim Ross & Tony Shrivane...3-Memphis angles...DiBiase trying to buy the title...WHAT'S NOT: 1-The Road Warriors-Warlord/Barbarian feud...Starrcade matches...3-the Von Erich over America tour...as you can see from this issue there's plenty to choose from. You have to hurry though because deadline on votes for this is December 24.

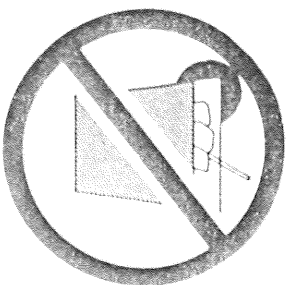
By the way, for you winners in our tournament drawing, your prizes will be sent out next week. Give me a little time to recover from this issue.

We didn't have exactly an avalanche of mail for Christmas lists for the wrestlers. However, if any of you would like to send along New Year's resolutions for our next issue, I'm planning on having a column for that as well.

One more quick reader plug...Bill Kunkel is producing an interesting newsletter called ANGLE. It's mainly opinion and such and it's well done. Bill is a professional writer (has scripted some stories for DC and Marvel comics) so his style is professional. It goes for \$2.50 per issue and is published "more or less monthly". Address is 59 Livingston St. Suite 6B, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

That's it for another issue of Wrestling Forum. Have a safe and prosperous holiday season and we'll see you all in a couple of weeks.

WRESTLING FORUM V2I23
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